

<><><><><><>

:: THE HEADLINES ::

- Nagaland among country's leading performers in export readiness
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi says government is working with spirit of public welfare for every individual
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reiterates commitment to building Aatmanirbhar and future-ready Army
- President Droupadi Murmu urges students to serve society alongside personal success

<><><><><><>

Nagaland has emerged as one of the leading performers among small states, northeastern states, and union territories in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, released by NITI Aayog yesterday. The state secured third place in the category, behind Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir. Nagaland also improved its overall EPI ranking to 18th in 2024 with a score of 46.42, up from 28th rank with a score of 33.33 in EPI 2022. The report identified agriculture, spices, furniture, and handlooms and textiles as the state's core export sectors, with food processing and herbal products as emerging sectors showing strong growth potential. According to the report, Nagaland recorded total exports worth 11.7 crore rupees in the financial year 2024, with major export items including minerals, handloom products, engineering goods, and manufactured tobacco. The state also received business investment intents worth 4,560 crore rupees across various sectors during the Business 20 Conference held in April 2023. Noting that Nagaland's current exports are dominated by coal and forest products, the NITI Aayog report underscored the state's potential for diversification. It identified categories such as printed books and leaflets, and parts for machine tools, including tool holders, as promising areas for industrial expansion. It emphasized that the development of local manufacturing ecosystems and enhancement of artisan skills could help scale up exports in these sectors. The report added that a focused approach towards sustainable resource management, product innovation, and improved market access will be crucial for Nagaland to fully leverage its diverse export potential and drive broader economic growth.

<><><><><><>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said that India has shown that democratic institutions and democratic processes give democracy a stability, speed and scale. Addressing the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth in New Delhi, Mr Modi said, India has turned diversity into the strength of its democracy. He said, in India democracy means last-mile delivery

and the government is working with a spirit of public welfare for every individual without any discrimination.

Prime Minister Modi said, in India, the people are paramount, and their aspirations have been made the top priority. He said, India turned diversity into its strength and emerged as the fastest growing major economy. Speaking on the occasion, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that AI and social media have enhanced the efficiency and capability of democratic institutions. He added that their misuse has led to serious challenges like misinformation, cybercrime, and social division. The Speaker called for collective action to address these issues.

<><><><><><>

A grand parade was held in Jaipur today to mark the 78th Army Day. This is the first time that the Army Day parade has been held outside a military cantonment, directly among the public. Speaking to media on the occasion, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said that the Indian Army is preparing itself to meet the present challenges as well as the future requirements.

The parade featured an extensive display of the Army's modern combat capabilities. Extending greetings, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reiterated the government's commitment to building a modern, Aatmanirbhar and future-ready Army.

<><><><><><>

The Nagaland Police has cautioned the public against individuals seeking money or offering recommendations in connection with constable recruitment. It said, apart from the 300 rupees exam fee, no payment is being charged. Police has urged that any demand for money or assurance of selection should be reported to the authorities immediately.

<><><><><><>

President Droupadi Murmu has advised students to remember that education is not merely a means of livelihood, it is also a means of serving society and the nation. Addressing the 50th Convocation of the Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar, today, she said the students owe a debt to the society which has contributed to their education. She added, making efforts to uplift those who have been left behind in the development journey can be one of the ways of paying ones debts. The President said that the future of India depends on young people who possess a scientific temper, act responsibly and serve selflessly, and urged higher education institutions to inculcate these values in their students.

<><><><><><>

The Mini-Hornbill extension of the Tsüngkamnyo Festival was celebrated today at Sangphur Village in Shamator district, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and

traditions of the Yimkhiung community, the festival was hosted by Advisor for Youth Resources & Sports S. Keoshu Yimkhiung and attended by representatives of the Longsa Village Council. Addressing the gathering, the Advisor highlighted that the joint celebration reflected the deep bond between the Aos and Yimkhiungs, and expressed hope for further strengthening ties. The programme featured vibrant traditional performances, ceremonial rituals, and cultural dances.

<><><><><><>

Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio have extended greetings to the Yimkhiung community on Tsüngkamnyo festival. In a message, Governor Bhalla said the harvest festival is a time of thanksgiving, reflecting the community's deep respect for nature, hard work, and ancestral traditions. He prayed that the occasion strengthens unity, harmony and cultural pride. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Rio noted that the festival honours values of reconciliation, sharing, fellowship, and reinforces bonds of friendship, peace, and unity within the community. Mr Rio expressed hope that Tsüngkamnyo would strengthen harmony and goodwill among all. Also extending greetings, Rajya Sabha MP S. Phangnon Konyak prayed for happiness, progress and blessings for every household.

<><><><><><>

The last date for submission of applications for engagement of Part-Time Correspondents (PTCs) by Akashvani Kohima in 11 districts of Nagaland is January 20. The districts include Chümoukedima, Longleng, Meluri, Mon, Noklak, Peren, Phek, Shamator, Tuensang, Tseminyu, and Zunheboto. Necessary details and prescribed proforma may be accessed from www.newsonair.gov.in under the vacancies section in the notification issued on 19th December 2025.

<><><><><><>